

PET RELOCATION

your step-by-step guide

E-book by Flying Dutch Pets

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Relocating abroad and bringing your pets ...

Than this E-book is a MUST READ!!

Especially when this is the first time you are moving, planning the move can be challenging. And when bringing pets it can get nerve reccing.

But I promise this step-by-step guide will help you succesfully navigate the process and save you time, so you can focus on moving your family and enjoy life in your new country as quickly as possible.

So - why is moving your pet abroad so difficult and *not* a walk in the park?

Just because you are not familiar with all the regulations and you don't know were to go to for the right information.

Online you can get lost in all the info you will find wich all state different things and can put you on the wrong track.

You will need to find out wich airline and country regulations apply on you regarding crate size, weather embargo's, restricted breeds, pet friendly flight schedules, veterinary import requiremenst, import permits, quarantaine and custom regulations.... Need I go on? Because there is much more to consider!

In some cases you can handle everything yourself and in others you will need a pet relocation specialist to organize your pets move for you so *the going don't get tough*.

When you need assistance, Flying Dutch Pets can help you every single step of the way. For more information [visit our website](#)

Have you asked yourself the following questions?

- Am I travelling with my pet(s)?
- Do I have to arrange a flight as cargo, in-cabin or as excess baggage?
- Will I need a petrelocation specialist?
- Am I 100% sure I know all veterinary requirements for this country?
- How do I know for sure I have the perfect crate?
- Will my pet be safe during transport?



The first tip I can give you is start thinking in two separate processes to move your pet: the logistics part + the veterinary part

The second tip is to put one person in the family in charge of your pets relocation.

Travel options

In cabin

In-cabin – pets travel under the seat in front of you in the passenger cabin.

Pro: you travel with your pet and won't be separated

Cons: your pet will be in a very small bag/cabin-kennel for a long time.

In-cabin there is a lot of noise and strange smells which can stress-out your pet.

You and your pet will be less able to relax during the flight.

Excess-baggage - pets travel checked as luggage underneath the plane in the ventilated part of the cargo hold

Pro: Cheaper when traveling as cargo.

Your pet won't pick-up on your stress during traveling

Your pet will be in a travel container which is big enough for him to stand, turn , lay down and take a nap.

Cons: owner must travel on the same flight as their pet.

After check-in there is no supervision of your pet. They have to wait at the luggage department before loading were there are non professional animal handlers.

Excess baggage

Manifested cargo – pets travel underneath the plane in the cargo hold on a passenger or a cargo flight.

Pro: owner does not have to travel with their pet.

Pets traveling as cargo will be more monitored than luggage.

Your pet travel specialist – [Flying Dutch Pets](#) - will book the best possible pet-friendly option and guide you through all logistic and veterinary issues.

Cons: more expensive than flying as baggage

Manifested Cargo

Things to keep in mind when selecting a travel container

Your pet WILL get refused at the check-in counter when your crate is too small or unsuitable for air transport.

The crate must be tall enough so your pet doesn't have to duck to look out of the crate

The crate must be wide enough so your pet can easily turn around

The length of the crate must allow your pet to lay down comfortably with paws extended



THE RIGHT SIZE TRAVEL CONTAINER

MEASURING YOUR DOG

Length from tip of the nose to the root of the tail

Height whilst standing in a normal position, from the ground up to the top of his head



SIZES

- P-100 - Small
- P-200 – Medium
- P-300 – Intermediate
- P-400 – Large
- P-500 – Extra Large
- P-700 – Giant
- Custom made

The perfect travel container will contribute to your pet's safety and keep him comfortable during the flight. It is also important to pick the right style so the airlines will have no problem accepting your pet on the flight.

The construction needs to be in line with the IATA Live Animal Regulations.

In short the container needs to be:

- # Sturdy rigid shell, waterproof, well ventilated
- # Upper and lower shell screwed together with bolts (NO click system)
- # Metal bar door
- # Centralized locking system which fastens both locks on top and at the bottom of the door (NO padlocks)

[Read more about kennels on iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

When you already own a travel container that is great! To be sure your container is OK always check the latest requirements with your airline or ask [Flying Dutch Pets](#).

APPROVED



NOT APPROVED



NOT APPROVED



Things to know before purchasing a travel container

You do not have to measure your cat. Only the breed and weight are important to determine the right size travel container. Per example the Main Coon or a snub-nosed breed will need a bigger container than a European shorthair. In general a cat weighing less than 4 kg can travel in a size small.

When you already own a travel container and used it in the past this is no gaurentee the container will get accepted by the airline for your current move. **Always check the latest crate requirements** as they vary across airlines.

Also some airports have a different standard for accepting pet travel containers than others.

Add about approx. 4 inches (10 cm) on the height and 8 inches (15-20 cm) to the lenght of your pets measurements for the right amount of space in the travel container.

Snub-nosed breeds require a bigger travel container (one size up).

Buy your travel container, watercontainer and bedding online at [Flying Dutch Pets](#) and we will deliver it at your home (available in the Netherlands and Belgium) so your pet can get ajusted to it right away.

Tips to train your pet to adapt easily to the travel container

Don't wait till the last couple of days but start in advance to prepare your pet.

When your pet is a "chicken" start with removing the door and the top half.

Keep the training positive and fun. Start with leaving your pet for 5-10 minutes in the crate and build from there. Be patient and always stay calm

When your furry friend is in the kennel do not get him over excited.

Rewarding the behavior you want will keep your pet motivated and a quick learner.

Always stay in the same room at the beginning of the training.



Crate preparation for the flight

What goes on the outside of the crate?

- 2 Live animal stickers (one on each side - length)
- 4 Arrow stickers (one on each corner)
- Picture of your pet
- Data of your pet: passport name, chipnumber
- Data of the consignor (sender / person who is shipping the pet) and the consignee (person who is collecting the pet from the airport of destination): passport name, adress, phonenumber(s)
- Flightnumber(s), departure and destination airport
- Copies of all veterinary documents in a seal bag (when booked as excess baggage) on top of the crate.

Tip: when there is a layover tape a small portion of food in a ziplock bag incl. instructions and time/date of latest feed on top of the crate so the animal care takers can feed your pet during the transit.

- Secure all corners and the door with cable ties

When traveling as cargo we will take care of everything mentioned above! Go to the [Flying Dutch Pets website](#) for more information.



Crate preparation for the flight

What goes in the crate?

- 2 small waterbowls (empty) and for larger crates and long distance flights 1 extra large waterbowl.

Tip: Place a funnel with zip ties at the outside of the door so the waterbowl can be filled without opening the crate.

Tip: You can fill the bowl with water and freeze overnight – this reduces spilling and your pet has fresh water as soon as he is loaded on the airplane.

- Crate bedding: an absorbing mat or paper shreds (avoid using paper shreds when your pup/kitten likes eating paper). Make sure your pet still has 3-4 inches (10 cm) above his head when your pet and the bedding are both in the crate.

Tip: Place one of your tshirts in the crate so your pet smells your scent and will be more at ease.

Tip: NO toys because your pet can suffocate in it when he gets stressed and tares up the toy.

Keep in mind your 4 legged friend can react different during transport than in a normal home situation. Our motto is “better safe than sorry”. Your pets well being is most important.

When traveling as cargo we will take care of everything!
Go to the [Flying Dutch Pets website](#) for more information.



Pet Prep

Get a (break away) collar for your pet with identification. Make sure your pet cannot get his paw through the collar or the collar gets hooked during transport.

Get your pets nails clipped.

Get your pets coat groomed. Removing dead undercoat helps keeping your pet cooler. Especially in the summer time or when traveling to a sunny country.

When your moving to a hotter country – check if your new home has air conditioning to keep your pet cool. Buy a cooling mat or collar.

When your moving to a cold country think about getting snow shoes for your dog or a coat, just to get adjusted to the temperature.



Veterinary requirements

Approved

Your pet will need an ISO compatible microchip, vaccination(s), a health certificate, government endorsements and other veterinary documents according the country of your destinations import requirements.

For some countries you'll have to start up to 6 months before travel.

You will need to enquire all import regulations with the embassy.

Check out the [list of embassy websites](#) here.

For the airline it is mandatory your pet gets a health check within one week before departure.



Flying Dutch Pets helps!

Go to [our website](#) and check out our unique service for a veterinary schedule customized for your pet. Also when you did not book the flight with Flying Dutch Pets and you're pet is traveling as excess luggage or in-cabin, you will know what the import requirements are and when to schedule an appointment with your vet.

Sedation and tranquilizers

NO NO NO

Sedation could seem like a good idea to reduce your pet's stress and anxieties during travel but the mix of air transport and sedated pets is very dangerous and even can be fatal. Airlines prohibit sedation and will refuse your pet when they see it is sedated.

Your pet can react abnormally to a drug during the transport and the change in altitude can cause unpredictable side effects and limit a pet's ability to regulate breathing and body temperature.

For the unusual cases please consult with your vet for another option like a homeopathic medicine.



Will it be safe for my pet to fly?

Yes, when your pet is healthy and all preparations are done carefully flying is just as safe for your pet as is for you.

Yes, in some cases cats and dogs are at a higher risk:

When you have an elderly pet (older than 8 years)
Pets with underlying medical conditions may be more likely to have problems during transport. Your vet could do a geriatric blood test to make sure your pet is fit to fly.

Obese pets may also be at higher risk. Keeping your pet healthy and at a normal weight will reduce problems.

Many pets will not drink the water provided during the transport or food provided while in transit. So your pet should be able to handle long periods with sub par hydration.

When your pet has a condition (per example kidney failure, heart problems, breathing problems, is epileptic or has hip dysplasia).

When your pet is snub-nosed

When traveling in a crate which is too small or unsuitable.

Always consult your vet before planning the move.



Snub-nosed breeds

Because of their anatomical abnormalities, short-nosed breeds seem to be more vulnerable to changes in air quality and temperature in the cargo hold of a plane.

Although pets are transported in pressurized cargo holds and get the same air that the passengers in the cabin do, the air circulation might not be ideal for your pet's individual needs (and remember, your dog is in a crate that could also be affecting ventilation).

Airlines always up- and unload animals first but keep in mind the temperature on the tarmac can be very high when traveling to a warm country or in summertime.

Most airlines have breed restrictions or banned the snub-nosed breeds on their flights. Check with your airline or with Flying Dutch Pets if your pet is allowed on the flight.

What you can do:

Keep your pet healthy and at a normal weight.

Getting your pet used to its travel carrier is proven to reduce stress while traveling.

Get a travel crate which is one size larger than required for a normal snout dog so there will be more air ventilation inside the carrier.



Booking the flight

For the following countries you will need a professional pet relocation specialist to book the flight for your pet as cargo: Australia, Bahrain, Ireland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, United Kingdom, South Africa.

When your pet is flying unaccompanied or the crate is too big for luggage your pet can only be booked as manifested cargo. Some airlines like United Airlines only accept pets (weighing more than 6 kg) as cargo for overseas flights.

Contact [Flying Dutch Pets](#) for more information.

If you are not traveling to a country as mentioned above your pet can be booked in most cases as excess luggage – but keep in mind this will not always be the most pleasant way to travel for both you and your precious pet. Each airline has their own pet policy and booking system, so always check your airlines website as the regulations vary per airline.

Prefer booking a pet friendly airline (check airline websites for air conditioned transport on the tarmac and pet hotels on airports to take care of pets during transit) and a direct flight.



Booking the flight 2

When planning your move try to avoid the hottest summer months, coldest winter months and the holidays.

You could get into trouble when you are all set at the airport and the airline refuses to take your pet due to a weather embargo. The flight can get delayed or cancelled. Having a back-up plan for your pet is always something to consider.

During the holidays it is more likely to be busier so airline personnel have less time to look after your fur-child. Airlines, custom offices, veterinary practices and public authorities are more likely to be understaffed what can lead to longer waiting times and not getting things done on time.

Note the time of day of the flights departure and arrival. The tarmac can get extreme hot during a summer afternoon and when your pet is waiting too long to get loaded or unloaded this could affect his well being.

Check customs of the country of destination for import duties, opening hours and regulations for importing a pet.

Certain breeds like a Pit bull terrier, Staffordshire (bull) terrier, Bull terrier, Cana Corso, Tosa Inu, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Kangal, Rottweiler etc. are prohibited in some countries or airlines.

On the road

When necessary train your dog to go with you in the car. Remember safety comes first so always transport him in a travel crate or seatbelt harness.

When your pet is used to his kennel this will help reduce anxiety during the whole transport.

Never ever leave your pet alone in the car. Not even for a couple of minutes. He could get stolen or get a heatstroke when it is a hot day.

Bring a bag with an extra leash, treats, food, a toy, medicine (when applicable), a bed (when your staying in a hotel), a plastic bag and a scoop.

Tip: When you are staying in a hotel check if your pet is welcome. Some hotels do not except extra large breeds.



So everything is booked and packed.
You planned the move carefully and feeling excited
going to your new home and start a new job.

What could possibly go wrong...

Try to stay calm when *shit hits the van*.
Your pet picks up on your stress.
Remember some things are just out of our control.

Have a plan B for your pet. Like a friend or family member
who could take care of your fur-child when unexpected things
happen.

Make a checklist of things to do and things to bring for your
pet like a first aid kit, medicine (when applicable), a leash, extra
cable ties and something to cut the cable ties.

Bring copies with you of airline regulations and veterinary
documents.

Keep a picture of your pet in your phone.



Day of travel checklist and tips

Do not feed your pet a couple of hours before the drive to the airport. It could upset his stomach. All that goes in needs to come out again what could get messy.

...plus we don't want our pet to get uncomfortable when he needs to go and doesn't want to in his travel kennel.

Be sure to bring plenty of water to keep your pet hydrated. Offer him water along the road and just a zip before check-in.

Take your pooch for a nice long walk so he can do his business and start his travel relaxed and in a calm state of mind.

Have all the (veterinary) documents ready (copies + originals)

Have the travel kennel ready with crate bedding, stickers, address and name labels, a picture of your pet, a sealed portion of food and copies of all documents.



When traveling as cargo your pet relocation specialist will prepare the kennel and place the original veterinary documents on the kennel.

[Flying Dutch Pets](#) is here to help.

Post flight tips

- # Bring an item to cut the cable ties after landing.
- # Have a leash ready and wait with opening the crate door when till you are in a secured area.
- # Check if your pet isn't dehydrated as he may not have drunk any water during the flight. Some pets just don't, even if they have access to it.
- # Keep an eye on his general health for a couple of days and make sure he feels at home.
- # If you aren't sure he is fine and get concerned always contact the vet right away.
- # Take your pooch for a nice walk so you both can relax and enjoy your new home town.
- # Look up where the veterinary practice in your new home town is located before traveling.



Need more assistance? Flying Dutch Pets is here to help.

When you need assistance moving your pet abroad or have any questions don't hesitate to contact us. Our team of pet travel experts will be ready for you and more than happy to help.

Click [here](#) to go to our website

Happy travels



We would love to hear your thoughts about our eBook. Please share your feedback , stories and your own tips.